

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 12 FEBRUARY 2023

PRELUDE

HYMN 532 (VERSES 1-4, 7)

- All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, allelluia!
- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice; ye lights of evening, find a voice: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, allelluia!
- Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia, alleluia!
 Thou fire, so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, allelluia!
- Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way,O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them his glory also show:

O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, allelluia!

Let all things their creator bless, and worship him in humbleness;
 O praise him, alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, allelluia!

GREETING

In the name of the living God: Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you and also with you.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION

The officiant uses an invitation to confession.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Book of Genesis:

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 14 And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. '21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was

so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' 29 God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

- O give thanks to the Lord for / he is / good: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever.
- O give thanks to the / God of / gods: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever.
- † O give thanks to the / Lord of / lords: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

To him who alone does / great / wonders: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

Who by wisdom / made the / heavens: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

Who stretched out the earth up-/-on the / waters: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

Who made the / great / lights: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

The sun to / rule the / day: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

The moon and the stars to / govern · the / night: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

Who remembered us in our hu-/-mili-/-ation: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

And delivered us / from our / enemies: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

Who gives food to / all that / lives: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever;

O give thanks to the / God of / heaven: for his / mercy · en-/-dures for / ever.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son: and / to the / Holy / Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and / ever / shall be: world without / end./ A-/-men.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:18-25

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 541 (TUNE 231)

- 1 Lord of beauty, thine the splendour shown in earth and sky and sea, burning sun and moonlight tender, hill and river, flower and tree: lest we fail our praise to render touch our eyes that they may see.
- 2 Lord of wisdom, whom obeying mighty waters ebb and flow, while unhasting, undelaying, planets on their courses go: in thy laws thyself displaying, teach our minds thyself to know.
- Lord of life, alone sustaining all below and all above, Lord of love, by whose ordaining sun and stars sublimely move: in our earthly spirits reigning, lift our hearts that we may love.
- 4 Lord of beauty, bid us own thee, Lord of truth, our footsteps guide, till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing

and, with vision purified, Lord of all, when all have known thee, thou in all art glorified.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

CREED The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

INTERCESSIONS

A member of the congregation offers prayers.

PEACE

Amen.

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

- 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
- 2 For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
- 3 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, pleasures pure and undefiled: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
- 4 For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
- 5 For thy church which evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

EUCHARIST Eucharistic Prayer E

The Lord be with you and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with [N and] all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Le us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

INVITATION

Amen.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The celebrant distributes communion.

INTERLUDE

HYMN 546

- O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art!' Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
- When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'

 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
- And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:

 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art!' Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then shall I bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.

BLESSING

The celebrant may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing:

...and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 810

1 Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

- 2 Thou, who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, O now to all mankind let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove, speed forth thy flight; move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessèd Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might; boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide let there be light.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are taking a collection during all of the services in the church building through the offering plate and through a tap and pay card reading system at the back of the church. PayPal and standing orders are also possible through our website or by contacting the church Treasurer. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.